

VIRGINIA HUD LINES

MAY 2005

E-Briefs from the Richmond Office of the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development

800/842-2610, extension 3742

Bill Miles, Director

www.hud.gov/virginia

USDA "FAST TRACKING" LOAN PROGRAM

USDA Rural Development in Virginia is "fast-tracking" its Guaranteed Rural Housing Loan Program that insures some \$90 million in mortgages in Virginia each year. Find out more at free, June 14th, USDA Rural Development workshop at Rappahannock Community College in New Kent County. For more, contact Michelle.corridon@va.usda.gov or call her at 804/387-1595.

DEADLINES!

HUD's 2005 SuperNOFA with \$2.3 billion in competitive grants has "hit the streets" and, already, the first submission deadlines are upon us. Rural Housing and Economic Development submissions are due May 17th. Community Development Work Study, Doctoral Dissertation and Early Doctoral Dissertation program submissions are due May 18th. Housing for People Who Are Homeless and Addicted to Alcohol program submissions are due May 19th. Housing Choice Vouchers/Family Self-Sufficiency Family Coordinators submissions are due May 20th. Fair Housing Initiatives submissions are due May 23rd. Section 811/Housing for Persons with Disabilities submissions are due May 24th. Historically Black Colleges & Universities submissions are due May 25th. ROSS Homeownership Supportive Services submissions are due May 26th. Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS submissions are due May 27th. Section 202/Supportive Housing for the Elderly submissions are due May 31st. For more about HUD SuperNOFA grants, visit www.grants.gov

RATIOS UP

In Mortgagee Letter 2005-16 at <http://www.hud.gov/offices/hsg/mltrmenu.cfm>, FHA Commissioner John Weicher approves increase of qualifying debt-to-income ratios for FHA insured mortgages from 29% payment-to-income and 41% debt-to-income, respectively, to 31% and 43%, saying recent Federal income tax cuts have increased the "buying power and disposable income" of homebuyers.

ON THE STANDS!

VHDA has just published the 2005-2006 edition of the *Virginia Housing Director*. Take a peek at www.vhda.com/apps/housingdirectory/housing.htm or contact Danielle.griffing@vhda.com

BRIEF BRIEFS

HUD Secretary Jackson reports record 51.5 percent minority homeownership rate in 1st Quarter of 2005ip. . Waynesboro Redevelopment & Housing, VHDA, DHCD and HUD celebrate ribbon-cutting for first home built for persons with disabilities under new pilot homeownership program. . Tuesday, April 26th, *Federal Register* publishes Final Rule imposing treble damages for failure to offer loss mitigation on FHA-insured mortgages. . Charlottesville Area Association of REALTORS and Piedmont Housing Alliance say it's received \$180,000 in pledges to CAAR Work Force Housing Fund to "aid key members of our workforce" like firefighters, teachers, police officers and nurses to be able to afford "to live in the communities where they work." . Southeast Rural Community Action Program sets May 4th & 5th to celebrate 35th anniversary. . Ronnie Legette named new director for Community Planning & Development and Bob Jennings named director for Public Housing at HUD Richmond. . Habitat for Humanity Peninsula celebrates the completion and dedication of its 80th house. . Department of Veterans Affairs sets June 22nd as due date for its Homeless Providers Grants. . Run, don't walk to <http://www.canalwalk.org/> to find out how you can help the homeless at Wachovia Securities' June 4th CanalWalk. . More than 100 attend 3rd annual Sussex County Homeownership Fair. . Earthcraft House launches pilot builders program in Charlottesville. . Appalachian Regional Commission awards \$25,000 to Dickenson County's "Train the Trainer" hospitality program and \$17,040 to Appalachian School of Law's Emerging Leaders program. . HUD Richmond okays \$6 million substantial rehabilitation of Harvey Hall, 106-unit, Section 221(d)4 complex in Arlington. . More than 130 attend Hampton Redevelopment & Housing's 6th annual Landlords' Breakfast. . Richmond Redevelopment & Housing and Neighborhood Housing Services break ground on first 9 of 30 homes in South Barton Heights neighborhood. . Salvation Army celebrates its 100th anniversary of doing business by helping people in Lynchburg. . Charlottesville Area Community Foundation awards grants to Louisa Downtown Development Corporation and Rebuilding Together in Amherst and Nelson counties. . Virginia Sustainable Building Network to celebrate 10th anniversary at The Jefferson in Richmond on June 15th. . HHS announces \$16 million available to non-profits for community economic development under Community Services Block Grant at www.grants.gov

HELPING HELPERS

DHCD has awarded some \$200,000 appropriated by General Assembly to make critical repairs and improvements at homeless shelters across Virginia. Awardees include Action in Communities through Service in Prince William County, Christian Relief Services in Alexandria, ESI, Inc., in Richmond, First Step in Harrisonburg, HOPE House in Gate City, Miriam's House in Lynchburg, Northern Virginia Family Services in Fairfax, Trust Trouble Center in Roanoke, Warren County Council on Domestic Violence in Front Royal and Norfolk YWCA. "The upgrades," said DHC Director Bill Shelton, "help them run more efficiently and protect the health and well-being of those seeking shelter."

A ROSS-Y FUTURE

Saying the funds will "provide the tools public housing residents need on their way to self-sufficiency," HUD Assistant Secretary for Public & Indian Housing Michael Liu announced \$1,225,000 in Resident Opportunities Self Sufficiency grants to four public housing agencies in Virginia. Danville's Redevelopment and Housing Authority was awarded \$250,000, the Norfolk authority was awarded \$500,000, the Roanoke authority was awarded \$350,000 and the Pleasant View Tenants Association, Inc. in Danville was awarded \$125,000 in today's announcement. ROSS grants hiring staff who link public housing residents with training, job placement and local employers/.

WHAT THE HECM?

Interested in HUD reverse mortgage products? Then attend a free "What the Heck is HECM?" workshop from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesday, June 15, at HUD Richmond. Continuing education credit is available for Virginia Association of Housing Counselors members. For more, contact Virginia_f_Holman@hud.gov or call 800/842-2610, extension 3729.

DON'T FORGET

Annual meeting of Virginia Association of Housing & Community Development Officials convenes at Sheraton Oceanfront in Virginia Beach. To register, contact brenda_willis@crhava.org or call her at 757/523-041.